

## NEW RECORDS AND NOTES OF HAWK MOTHS (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE) FROM DAUAN ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT, QUEENSLAND

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### Abstract

Two species of hawk moth, *Angonyx papuana* Rothschild & Jordan and *Macroglossum hirundo errans* (Walker) are newly recorded from Dauan Island. The previous record of *Hippotion scrofa* (Boisduval) from this island was an error.

### Introduction

Lachlan and Knight (2004) provided records for 31 species of hawk moths from Dauan Island (9°25'S, 142° 32'E), Torres Strait. However, the record for one of these, *Hippotion scrofa* (Boisduval), was an error; the specimens were actually from New Caledonia and had been placed inadvertently with Dauan Island material. *H. scrofa* remains unrecorded from the Torres Strait region. One of us (AIK) recently spent approximately 12 weeks, between 15 December 2005 and 11 March 2006, conducting a further survey of the hawk moths of the island. A steady decline in species diversity and abundance was noted during the survey period.

All specimens are in the collection of RBL; some duplicates are held by the Australian Museum, Sydney and the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

### Discussion

Only two additional species, *Angonyx papuana* Rothschild & Jordan and *Macroglossum hirundo errans* (Walker), were recorded during the latest survey. The Papua New Guinea species *Theretra insularis insularis* (Swinhoe) (Fig. 1) was again recorded from a single specimen.

Some species, such as *Gnathothlibus erotus eras* (Boisduval), were extremely common throughout the survey period, particularly females. A very small female (Fig. 2) of a *Gnathothlibus* Wallengren species, with a wingspan of only 7.2 cm and unusually dark hindwings, was collected for the first time. This might be a very rare melanic specimen of *G. erotus eras* or, given its very small size and hindwing colouring, it may prove to be the first recorded female of *Gnathothlibus australiensis* Lachlan (Lachlan 2004). This has yet to be resolved.

All species of *Macroglossum* Scopoli recorded in the 2004 survey were seen or collected in larger numbers throughout the latest survey. There are still four species, recorded by Moulds (1985) from the southern islands of the Torres Strait and with ranges into Papua New Guinea, that have not been recorded, as yet, from Dauan Island.



**Figs 1-2.** Hawk moths from Dauan Island, northern Torres Strait. (1) *Theretra insularis insularis*; (2) *Gnathothlibus* sp.: possible *G. australiensis* female or a melanic specimen of *G. erotus eras*.

It is interesting to note that, of the 32 species of hawk moths now recorded from Dauan Island, nine species (including the two latest records), were recorded from single specimens only.

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### **References**

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